

It's a new day at Georgia Equality. New leadership. New board. New staff. New strategic plan.

- Georgia's LGBT community has made great progress in the past ten years with increased social awareness and acceptance of LGBT persons, the election of openly-LGBT elected officials, and the passage of non-discrimination policies and domestic partner benefits at the local level; however, serious challenges and threats remain to building a fair majority and advancing LGBT policy issues.

- With Republicans dominating the General Assembly for the foreseeable future, the LGBT community must find new ways to build a fair majority and advance LGBT policy issues.

ZAMI

October 20, 2007

Ronald Moore, 404/815-0896

Georgia Equality 2007

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- With Republicans dominating the General Assembly for the foreseeable future, the LGBT community must find new ways to carve out a bi-partisan fair majority and advance LGBT policy issues.

Georgia Equality 2007

- Georgia's first openly-gay elected official and nationally respected political strategist, former Atlanta City Council President Cathy Woolard, has been tapped to lead the organization as Interim Executive Director and serve as chief lobbyist for the LGBT community at the General Assembly.
- Under Cathy Woolard's leadership, Georgia Equality is focusing its resources on the work of carving out a bi-partisan fair majority to advance LGBT policy issues in the state legislature and on targeted local councils and commissions.

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Fair Majority

- The threat of a gay adoption ban is real, as is the opportunity for historic hate crimes legislation during the 2008 General Session. These contradictory actions paint for us the clear picture of Georgia's complex political reality. Our research indicates that we can achieve a fair majority of support for LGBT issues in the state legislature.
- Building a fair majority requires moving targeted Republican and Democratic legislators to vote their conscience on LGBT policy issues, and replacing anti-LGBT lawmakers in primary and general elections.

Fair Majority

- Successful lobbying requires a year-round operation based on extensive research – legislative interviews, voting records, personal and professional backgrounds, counting votes on any given issue going into session, developing strategies to move individual legislators, and ensuring accountability in relation to elections activities.
- With a year-round lobbying operation, we can hold our elected officials accountable for their actions.

Black Same Sex Households

http://thetaskforce.org/reports_and_research/blackcouples_census

- Black female same-sex couples report lower annual median household income than Black married opposite-sex couples
- Black female same sex households are raising children under 18 at nearly twice the rate reported by White female same sex couples, 53% versus 32%
- Black women in same sex households parent at almost the same rate as Black married opposite sex couples (45% vs. 51%)

What Can You Do?

- Volunteer to lobby your legislator.
- GE will prepare you for the meeting.
- You need to make the appointment, perhaps get a few friends and do the meeting.
- Maybe you already know some legislators.
- Potential issues – hate crimes, adoption, HIV programs
- Establishing the relationship is most important, letting them know they have African American constituents.

What Can You Do?

- Host a house party in January (more info to come)
- Buy a ticket to “Evening for Equality” November 10, 2007 at Callanwold – come have fun
- Become a sustainer and help build GE into a strong and stable statewide organization. Become a sustainer now at \$50 per month or more and receive 2 tickets to E4E.

We Need \$500K

- An aggressive budget is needed to build a fair majority in the state legislature and on local councils and commissions. In order to raise \$500,000 in 16 months to reach our short-term and long-term strategic goals and ensure our success, the LGBT community must double the support it has given Georgia Equality in its best fundraising years.

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